



The Carolina DX Association

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MEETING

The next meeting of the CDXA will be held on September 24th. This will be a dinner meeting with election of officers.

PETER I ISLAND (3Y)

Along with the recent announcement that Norway's Peter I Island has been granted provisional acceptance as a DXCC country comes the desire to know more about this distant island. It seems only a few months ago that Willy de Roos, VK9XR, anticipated putting Peter I Island on the air for the first time, but alas, it was decided, at that particular time, that Peter I Island would not qualify for separate country status. Nevertheless, Peter I Island is accepted and will be a DXCC whenever someone operates from there.

Peter I Island is an uninhabited island located off the coast of Antarctica in the Bellingshausen Sea at 68 degrees 56' S 98 degrees 30' W. It was first sighted in 1821 by the Russian explorer Admiral von Bellingshausen. However, the first landing was not made until 1929 by a Norwegian expedition -- more than one hundred years later. The island was placed under Norwegian sovereignty in 1931 and became a dependency in 1933.

When first sighting Peter I Island, the Bellingshausen expedition thought they had found a large mass of land, even a continent. But upon nearing the land it was obvious they had discovered an island. They were unable to get closer than 14 miles of the island because of solid ice. Bellingshausen saw [1] "... ice capped rock cliffs rising several thousand feet from the sea on the outer edge of the ice pack." He named it Peter I Island after the great Russian Czar.

It wasn't until 1929 -- more than a hundred years later -- that a confirmed landing was made on the island. A Norwegian expedition aboard the research vessel *Norvegia* landed on the island on February 1, 1929 and claimed it for Norway. While on the island, the Norwegians constructed a hut on a rocky platform overlooking the anchorage at Sandefjordbukta. At least one writer believes that Norway has periodically maintained a cache of emergency provisions on the island since that time. But Captain Heinz Aye of the passenger ship *NV World Discoverer*, while on a circumnavigation cruise from Chile to New Zealand, claims to have made the first landing since 1929 when he led a landing party to the "shores" of the island in 1982.

During the years since the island was first discovered, numerous vessels have sighted the island, have even circumnavigated the island in order to determine its size and confirm its exact location, but landings were not attempted because of the same ice that prevented Bellingshausen from landing.

In 1955, someone aboard the *U.S.S. Atka* wrote [2]: "Peter I Island, whose ice-sheathed, 4000-foot summit was hidden in clouds. Its precipitous cliffs were the most dramatic we had seen so far. The ice cap pressed to their brink and at the foot of one sheer drop, which seemed to be about 2000 feet, bergy bits floated about in the water. Apparently an iceberg had recently broken off an fallen the height of two Empire State buildings into the Sea."

Peter I Island, which is thought to have a land area of 69 square miles is considerably larger than Norway's Bouvet Island (19 Square miles). According to the log of the *NV World Discoverer* [3] "it is an impressive mass of basalt lava rock, about 11-1/2 X 4 miles, and with 3 peaks up to 5,750 ft. high. The top is permanently covered with glacial ice."

The landing of Captain Aye and his party is vividly described from the log of the *World Discoverer's* [3]: "It was late and getting dark, with a low ribbon of eerie mist across the black face of what little cliff was not snow or ice-covered. To the right of the chosen landing site was a huge narrow and flat piece of volcanic rock jutting partly into the sea, its sides sheer and its top jagged and turreted. The over-all impression was of a prehistoric movie set -- dark, foreboding, mysterious."

As you are probably aware, Antarctica is essentially an "international park"; the signatories of the 1959 Antarctic Treaty agreed to set aside the Antarctic region for peaceful purposes and essentially, for a period of time, forget territorial claims. This treaty is the reason Antarctica is only one country for DXCC purposes, even though the region is divided up into pie-shaped territories. The DXCC country status of Peter I Island is not affected by the treaty, because it became a dependency of Norway in 1933, before the treaty was signed.



Artists conception of Peter I Island.

T31/KH1 end of August----OHØ 8/20 & 8/21----
T30 & T32 8/22 to 8/31----ZA 9/3 to 9/17 ???
VE St. Paul 9/23----JT1A0 from 3W in early
1984----Russian Net 14.192 at 0330----A92DQ
meets his manager Thur. 14.270 at 2200----
SVØCT maybe on from Dodecanese during CQ WW
MacQuarie - VKØGC with VK9NS on 14.220 from
0630. Will QSY to 3795 around 1000----T2GSH
also on 14.220 at 0630. T2ADE 14.195 from
9900 ----TNX to QRZ DX for Peter Is. article.

KERNADEC

